COVID-19
VACCINATION

COVID-19 vaccine

What is it? Is it safe?

Easy Read fact sheet

The Australian Government wrote this fact sheet. When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian Government.

We wrote this fact sheet in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

You can ask for help to read this fact sheet. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a **virus** that has affected many people around the world.

A virus is an illness or disease that can spread from one person to another person.
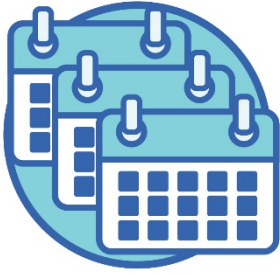
A **vaccine** is medicine that:

- helps people fight a virus if they come in contact with it

- can stop people from getting very sick from the virus.

The COVID-19 vaccine teaches your body how to:

- know if COVID-19 is there

- fight COVID-19.

Vaccines can take a long time to make.

Vaccines must be tested many times to make sure they are safe.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Scientists around the world have made different COVID-19 vaccines.

In Australia, the **Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)** approves all vaccines before they can be used.

The TGA is part of the Australian Government.

The TGA makes sure the medicine we use in Australia is safe.

The TGA only approves vaccines that:

- are safe

- work well.

After they approve a vaccine, the TGA:

- keeps a list of the vaccines they approve

- keeps track of the way the vaccine is working in the community.

This includes how:

- well the vaccine works

- safe the vaccine is.

The TGA has already approved 2 COVID-19 vaccines in Australia.

They are called the:

- Pfizer vaccine – it is also known as the Comirnaty vaccine

- COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine.

The TGA might also approve more COVID-19 vaccines later this year.

More information

You can call the Disability Gateway on **1800 643 787**.

They are open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.

You can visit the Department of Health website at **www.health.gov.au** for more information about the vaccine.

You can call the National Coronavirus Helpline on **1800 020 080.**

If you need information in a language other than English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.

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